

Abstract of the Invention

A plunger lift for a hydrocarbon well includes a multipart piston that is dropped into the well in separate pieces. When the pieces reach the bottom of the well, they fall into an accumulation of the formation liquid in the bottom of the well and unite. Gas from the formation pushes the unit upwardly, pushing liquid above the piston toward the surface. In one embodiment, the piston is made of a low density, high strength material such as silicon nitride and/or titanium alloys.

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